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Municipal Administration. By JOHN A. FAIRLIE. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1901. 8vo, pp. x+448.

THIS book aims "to give a general knowledge of the whole field of municipal administration for those interested in public affairs, and at the same time to form the groundwork for more detailed investigation to those who make this a special field either for academic study or for practical work." It is divided into four parts. In Part I the development of cities from ancient times to the present is sketched. Part II, forming almost one-half of the book, treats of "Municipal Activities" under the captions "Public Health and Safety," "Charities and Provident Institutions," "Education," and "Municipal Improvements." Part III and Part IV are devoted to "Municipal Finances" and "Municipal Organization" respectively.

An extended review of the book as a whole would not be in place here. The material is well organized and well presented. Possibly some of Part I, on "Municipal History," could have been omitted without serious loss and the rest used to better advantage in the other parts of the book. The author has exercised good judgment in the selection of facts for presentation, and only infrequently makes such a misstatement as that in Chicago the mayor has "absolute power of selecting the department heads without the necessity for confirmation by the council." While the bibliographical notes given with each chapter or "part" are not above criticism, they are on the whole adequate and satisfactory. The index is good.

As must be the case in a book of this kind, the treatment of municipal finances is very brief. It covers only fifty-four pages and is perhaps the least satisfactory part of the book, though its shortcomings are chiefly due to space limitations. The material is drawn principally from the United States census of 1890, the *Bulletin of the Department of Labor*, the returns published in the *Parliamentary Papers*, the *Statistisches Jahrbuch deutscher Städte*, and *Les finances de la ville de Paris, 1789-1900*, by Cadoux. No reference is made to a number of excellent monographs, such as Rosewater's *Special Assessments* and Rowe's *Die Gemeindefinanzen im Berlin und Paris*.

Aside from their brevity, the chapters on "Municipal Expenditures" and "Municipal Debts" are very satisfactory. The chapter on "Municipal Revenues" is less so. "Commercial receipts from public property and public service," "subventions or grants from the [general] government," and "fiscal receipts from various systems of local taxation" are the three main categories of municipal receipts." The

author seems to be uncertain as to where certain items should be classified. For example, special assessments are included in the statistics of "commercial income," but as a source of revenue are discussed under "systems of local taxation." "Judicial fines in the police and municipal courts," an unimportant item, are mentioned here also. In the final chapter, "Finance Administration," the author discusses "budget procedure," "assessment and collection," and "accounting and auditing." However, most of the discussion of the second point is to be found in the preceding chapter in connection with local taxation. It would have been better had all the material been used there.

As a text in courses on municipal administration Professor Fairlie's book will be useful. It will also be of considerable service to those making more detailed investigations. But it is "too academic" to be of much value to those who have only a general interest in municipal government or who are engaged in "practical politics."

H. A. MILLIS.

CHICAGO.